

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 17th 4:00 PM
 Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Leo White, Welfare of Marvin Paige, Welfare of Julie Lott, Welfare of Anna Louise Penton, Edward Glenn Strickland, Ellen Knight, Miriam Allen, Welfare of Kristi Allen, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90th Birthday

Sunday, August 18th 8:30 AM
 Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Sheanie C. Mitchell, Irma Lee Callender, Bobby Schneider, Paulette Jacobs, Welfare of Lynda Cookston, Edward Glenn Strickland, Welfare of Denise Burr and her family, Welfare of Taylor Lott, Vincent Brouillette, Sr., Wayne Planche

10:30 AM
 Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, August 20th 8:00AM
 Welfare of the Simpson Family

Wednesday, August 21st 8:00AM
 Paulette H. Jacobs

Thursday, August 22nd 8:00AM
 Royce Arthur

Friday, August 23rd 8:00AM
 Welfare of Mary Melancon 90th Birthday

Saturday, August 24th 4:00PM
 Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Leo White, Welfare of Marvin and Marty Paige, Welfare of Mary Anthony, Ellen Knight, Lucille Brouillette, Herbert Bush, In Thanksgiving for no storms, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90th Birthday, Welfare of Julie Lott, Irmgard Borde

Sunday, August 25th 8:30AM
 Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Bobby Schneider, Irma Lee Callender, Sheanie C. Mitchell, Paulette Jacobs, Welfare of Denise Burr and her family, Ellen Knight, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90th Birthday, Welfare of Margie Brown, Welfare of Victoria Nielsen, Vincent Brouillette, Sr., Patrick Corkern, Sylvia Spillaman

10:30 AM
 Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
 In Honor of:
 Mary Brignac 90th Birthday

Last Week's Collection
August 10 - August 11, 2019

Loose-Checks & Cash \$1,989.00
 Envelopes \$2,477.00
 Total: **\$4,466.00**

Budgeted funds needed to operate: \$6,299.00

Amount under weekly budget: \$1,833.00

Thank You for Your Generosity!

All Roads Lead to Rome: Ten Reasons to Become Catholic

(Part 2 of 3)

4. A Cloud of Witnesses

One of the things that many protestants believe is that saints compete with God for glory. That is, that honoring a saint would always and everywhere detract from God's glory. But that is simply not true. The saints do not detract from God's glory or compete with Him for honor, but rather they magnify His grace and increase His glory.

The saints are stars in the canopy of heaven (the great cloud of Witnesses scripture speaks of) guiding us by their example and helping us powerfully by their prayers. All the honor given to the saints is ultimately a reflection of God's ability to transform poor sinners into the most shining examples of holiness. Our Lord delights in using creaturely agents to accomplish his will. Simply read scripture and you cannot but realize the fact that God has always used frail creatures to do great things, and He always will.

Christianity is not just about "me and Jesus." No one is saved alone. Heaven is a family, and the saints are our elder brothers and sisters. As Catholics, we can call on these heavenly friends and ask for their prayers, just as we ask for the prayers of friends and family on earth, and they will powerfully intercede for us. By becoming Catholic, we place ourselves in a great stream of the redeemed going back to the beginning of the Church.

5. The Sacraments

Nearly every other kind of Christian thinks of the tales and truths of scripture as historical realities but not living realities. For example, the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was something that happened to the apostles nearly 2,000 years ago, but the fire of the Holy Spirit has long since passed from the earth. We remember this occurrence in an abstract way, but it applied only to the apostles and has very little to do with us today.

The Catholic sees things differently. Pentecost is not merely a historical event—it is an eternal reality, and we can experience its fire and grace today in just as real a way as the apostles did. The Last Supper was not a historical event alone. It is a living reality, even an eternal reality, that we participate in today through the grace of the Holy Spirit. When we attend Mass and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in communion, it is not "re-sacrificing" Christ, but it is making present his eternal, once-for-all sacrifice on Calvary for us now.

In fact, all of the sacraments are the eternal works of God, which we see related in scripture, continuing today through his body, the Church. The sacraments are eternity invading time, the intersection of heaven and earth, the presence of the spiritual in the temporal. The sacraments are the most precious gifts imaginable, and they are available freely to every Catholic.

6. It's Filled with Sinners...

So you will fit right in! If you're looking for a perfect, pure, sin-free church, the Catholic Church isn't for you. The Church is a hospital for sinners; a place where human brokenness can encounter the healing grace of Jesus Christ. There have always been great sinners in the Church, but far from detracting from the truth of the faith, it rather proves that the Church offers a powerful remedy to the disorders of our human nature. In his earthly ministry, Jesus too was surrounded by sinners, and the Pharisees hated this fact.

I love how Oscar Wilde, a notorious sinner himself and deathbed convert to Catholicism, described the Catholic Church: "The Catholic Church is for saints and sinners alone—for respectable people, the Anglican Church will do."

7. A Faith for Everyone

The Catholic faith isn't simply for the elite or a select few. From time immemorial, it has been the home of coal-miners, farmers, soldiers, iron-workers, policemen—working men of all kinds. It has been the home of the simple, the ignorant, and the ordinary people of the world.

But just as truly it has also been the home of some of the greatest minds the world has ever known. In the Church, great scholars, artists, poets, novelists, scientists, and philosophers have found a faith that nourishes their minds as well as their hearts. Mystics, servants of the poor, zealous missionaries, contemplatives, and many more have too found a place in the Catholic-faith. In short, the Catholic Church is a home for anyone and everyone. It is the truest home for humanity.

